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TAC Minutes, 12/12/2012

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 12/12/12, 7:15 pm to 9:35 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Scott Smith.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Paul Kent, John Lentz, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Richard Turcotte

Missing Members and Associates: Jean Clark, Jeff Maxtutis, Ed Starr, Laura Weiner

Members of the Public Present: Sheri Baron, Mark Kaeppelin, Maria Romano

- Public Comments.

- Mark Kaeppelin requested that the current right turn lanes on Route 60 at the Route 60 / Mass Ave intersection become thru/right lanes, as was suggested in the Louis Berger Transportation Assessment Study of 2002. He suggested that a sign on a bumpout near Penzey's spices may have contributed to a recent accident that he was involved in, when a vehicle in the parking lot backed into his vehicle.
- Bates Road. Howard Muise reported that, weather permitting, we plan to obtain volume, speed and vehicle classification counts for Bates Road in January. We will also review crash data for the road. A speed monitoring trailer has been on the street for several weeks. Sheri Baron (10 Raleigh St.) and Maria Romano (25 Bates Road) reported that it seems to have reduced motorist speeds, and suggested a possible permanent speed monitor installation.

- Administration.

- Minutes of November 2012 were approved unanimously, with one amendment.
- Howard reported on the 11/29/2012 special meeting of TAC, where \$500 was voted for analysis of the Mass/Mill/Jason intersection. The minutes of that meeting were approved unanimously.
- Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.

- Town reports.

- Wayne Chouinard submitted a written report. Paving and painting are finished for the season.
- Corey Rateau reported that Forest Street parking was discussed by the Selectmen last week. The Police are working on hiring a third Parking Control Officer. He reported that there will be a *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign using a recently received enforcement grant.

- Arlington Center Parking. Howard reported the preliminary results of the Arlington Center parking counts that occurred on Thursday November 15th and Saturday November 17th.
- Route 2 / Pleasant Street Pedestrian Signal – No action yet.
- Florence/Claremont – This citizen request, received by DPW through the request / answer center, appears to be a

maintenance request (e.g., add a stop bar at an existing stop sign). Corey reported that Lt. Paul Conroy, who leads the police traffic unit, would like to see a stop bar at every stop sign. Wayne will respond to the request, and the requested stop bar will be added to the road painting list for the spring.

- Forest/Brand. The working group (Wayne, Corey, Elisabeth) is waiting for detailed dimensional measurements. Wayne and Elisabeth will draft a report for a future TAC meeting.
- Brattle Street. A citizen reported a collision with a parked car, and requested a speed bump. Wayne to investigate. Corey reported that some parking on the street had been removed, to reduce the risk of head-on crashes near the sharp turn.
- Russell Place. A citizen expressed concern about cut through traffic on the small road alongside the Minuteman Bikeway that runs between Water Street and Mill Street. An initial issue is to establish the name and ownership of this street, which does not appear on the street list. For now, we are calling it the Mill Street Connector. Although a tube count would be difficult (speeds are too low), a turning movement count might be possible. The new housing on Mill Street might also have an impact on traffic volumes in the future.
- Bike Pavement Marking Program. Next working group meeting needs to be scheduled.
- MBTA Bus Route 77. Howard, Elisabeth and Scott reported that they had worked with Laura to review the MBTA's 30% Design document for changes to the #77 Key Bus Route in Arlington. Laura is managing the comments for submission to the MBTA.
- Lake Street Corridor. Next action is to look at evening peak period throughput on Lake Street in the middle of winter, when bikeway usage is low.
- Jason Street Cut-through. Richard reported on a recent meeting with some 30 residents. Selectman Steve Byrne attended both this meeting and the working group meeting of December 2012. One complaint is about truck traffic, where it appears that some GPS units, aware of the congestion on Pleasant Street, are routing motorists on Jason. Next steps include speed / classification counts on Jason and other streets in the neighborhood (this will require some money). Travel time studies might also be necessary.
- Mass/Jason/Mill intersection. Elisabeth reported that the pedestrian counts and number of calls at the signal had been collected. With this, a detailed Synchro model of the intersection can be completed and used to investigate the feasibility of a split phase signal. It appears that the signal controller is new enough to accommodate such a signal phasing.
- Schools. Corey reported on parking / drop-off enforcement issues near some of the schools. To assist with the sidewalk inventory, the Town planning department will obtain detailed aerials of all of the schools, starting with Ottoson.
- Mill Street / Minuteman Bikeway Intersection. Plans for the flashing beacon have been submitted, and DPW expects to issue the permit soon.
- Egerton / Herbert. Scott presented the draft report that recommended a stop bar and marked crosswalk across Egerton, on the north side of Herbert. Voted unanimously. Although this item does not require action by the Board of Selectmen, it will be reported to them in January.
- Town Meeting. Howard mentioned that if there are warrant articles for Town Meeting, now is the time. We had none.
- Winter Social. Elisabeth to send out invitations and sign-up list for potluck contributions.
- Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Packet for December: Agenda, 12/12/12; Minutes of 11/14/12; Minutes of special meeting on 11/29/12; Citizen request (11/27) regarding Florence / Claremont; Citizen request (12/3) regarding Brattle Street; Working Group List; BoS/ARB Request Status, Individual Action List from 11/14/12; Status of TAC Approved Actions, 12/12/12; Draft recommendations for Egerton / Herbert; General TAC timeline for 2013.
- Summary of Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees
- Memo to TAC From WAC, Dated 12/12/12, Re. TAC Update Items
- Preliminary Arlington Center parking counts

